Exemption from implementation of RTI Act

489. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the organizations/Deptt. of Central Government that have so far sought exemptions from implementing the RTI Act;

(b) the number out of them that have been granted exemptions so far; and

(c) the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The Organizations like the Office of Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat; the Special Protection Group; the Central Vigilance Commission; the Border Road Development Board; the Financial Intelligence Unit, India; the Defence Research and Development Organization; the Railway Protection Force; the Directorate General of Income Tax (investigation); the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence; the National Technical Research Organization; the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security; the Central Bureau of Investigation; the Armed Forces (Army, Airforce, Navy and Coast Guard) etc. have sought exemption from implementing the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(b) The Special Protection Group; the Defence Research and Development Organisation; the Border Road Development Board and the Financial Intelligence Unit, India have been included in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act.

(c) These organizations have been included in the Schedule in view of the nature of their activities.

Scrapping of Official Secret Act

490. *SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:*

(a) whether it is a fact that the second administrative reforms commission has recommended the scrapping of the Official Secret Act;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the view of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Official Secret Act has lost its relevance in the wake of the RTI Act coming into force; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its report "Right to Information-Master Key to Good Governance" has *inter alia* recommended that the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923 should be repealed and substituted by a chapter in the National Security Act, containing provisions relating to official secrets. It has also recommended that the existing section 5 of the Official Secret Act may be reformulated on the lines recommended by the Shourie Committee. The OSA is the only law on the statute book to deal with cases of espionage and wrongful possession and communication of sensitive information detrimental to security of the State. This law has stood